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Agriculture; Horticulture, Live Stock and Rural Economy,

THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND, AND FOR TEN YEARS THE ONLY ONE.

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THE TOWNSHIP SYSTEM.

The following article was read by the Editor of "Maryland Farmer," at the Farmer's Convention held in Baltimore January 12th and 13th.

MR. PRESIDENT:—The subject upon which I am about to address you, I have long thought was an important one for Maryland, and I believe this body may greatly benefit our State, and especially the farming population, by some decisive action in connection with it. I refer to what is called, The Township System, in contra distinction to the present county and district system, under which Maryland is now managed.

Time will not permit me to give all the advantages of the Township System, or to explain at any great length its workings; I can only refer to it in a way which will enable each one to catch a glimpse of its great good, and what it promises of value to the Farmer. Under this system the State is divided into Townships of from 4 to 6 miles square, each with its post office, each working for its own local interests,

and yet when combined working as a whole for the best interests of the State at large.

These Towns hold their annual town meetings, and select by vote all their officers for the ensuing year. They also vote to raise all the money they need for schools, school houses, roads and bridges, for the support of the poor, &c., &c., and the whole town become as one great family, and work together for their mutual interests. The paid officers of the Town are three Select Men, (as they are generally called,) Treasurer, Town Clerk, School and Road Commissioners; and the pay is very small, those elected being generally men who feel a lively interest in town affairs, and serve faithfully on that account instead of for the amount of pay attached to their offices. In fact from practical experience it is shown that every enterprising citizen of the town seems to take as much pride in having good roads and bridges, good school houses and schools, a good Town Hall, and a good town Farm for the poor, as they do in their own household and

in strawberries, part of which had been mulched with salt hay for three years, showed a great advantage from the mulch. When plowed, the mulched part broke up finely, the other part was very lumpy. It was all planted the same day with corn. In the mulched part it came up in five days, the rest was about two weeks in coming up and much of it failed to come up at all. The after culture was the same with both parts, yet there was a much more vigorous growth on the part mulched.

For several years I have substituted mulching a part of my quince orchard instead of cultivation by stirring the soil, and have found besides the advantages already mentioned, that it was an easy way to keep clear of weeds. The hay from salt marshes is excellent for this purpose; but as it is often too expensive or inconvenient to procure, other material will be found serviceable. The experiments of Peter Henderson with moss (*sphagnum*) for a mulch around his flowers in pots, showed a very great benefit. But as he added bone meal to his moss, it might be supposed that this was the cause of their vigorous growth and beautiful blooming. It no doubt contributed toward it largely, but could not be credited with all the increased fertility so secured. For the last two years I have had a vigorous growth of blackberry plants which were left in the moss where I packed for shipment. Florists have also found that various flower seeds, not only germinated well in moss, but made a satisfactory growth without the addition of anything but water. If well fertilized, the moss will be a convenient substitute for earth for window gardening, producing admirable results without disturbing the most fastidious housekeeper with dirt.

In the swamps where the moss is left undisturbed till it grows very long, the lower end dies and decays so as to become a fertilizer for what is above it, so that it

may be said to grow upon a mulch of its own providing.

The fact that good crops of potatoes grow from seed that receives no culture but to be well covered with hay or straw is further proof that a mulch provides the needed conditions for success of this vegetable. The atmosphere presses on the earth with a weight equal to a column of water 33 feet high, and under this pressure is forced into all the pores of the absorbing soil. The more porous the soil the more air it will receive, and if at the same time it is moist its absorbing power is increased. Both these conditions are promoted by mulching. Now as nitrogen forms nearly four-fifths of the volume of the air, and not being chemically combined with the oxygen with which it is mixed, it must be freely absorbed by the soil. In combination with hydrogen it forms ammonia and its salts, which are dissolved in rain water and so furnish plants with needed nitrogen for both flowers and fruit. The more porous the soil, the more of the atmospheric gases it will receive; and if, at the same time, it is moist, its absorbent power is increased. Both of these conditions are secured by mulching, which thus adds fertility to the soil, and so becomes an important aid to agriculture and horticulture.

RUMBLD EGGS.—Very convenient for invalids, or, when required, a light dish for supper. Beat up three eggs with two ounces of fresh butter, or well-washed salt butter; add a teaspoonful of cream or new milk. Put all in a saucepan and keep stirring it over the fire for nearly five minutes, until it rises up like *souffle*, when it should be immediately dished on buttered toast.

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ADVICE TO FARMERS ABOUT BUYING IMPLEMENTS.

In the *Country Gentlemen* of January 6th, is a communication from Mr. Nott, (intended perhaps for an advertising dodge,) which contains advice, which we have met with elsewhere, and the gist of which is in the sentence, "Never get an implement except on trial, no matter how good." We think this advice wrong, pernicious, unjust and unworthy a place in the *Country Gentleman*. It is founded upon a wrong principle to commence with. A good implement, with an established reputation, needs no "trial" to recommend it. If the implements he is particular to "puff" so strongly, need a "trial" to secure a purchaser, we should certainly advise the Farmer to pass them by. If they must be accompanied by an expert to praise them up, to decry all others, and to assure good work from them, the Farmer should by all means let them alone. But the wrong is here: these implements cost we will say \$100; let the purchaser require the Farmer to forward on "trial" a hundred dollars worth of wheat, subject to return if the flour made from it, will not make first-class bread, the Farmer to bear all the expense of deterioration of the wheat, loss in shipping and re-shipping, injury resulting from trial, and the bad reputation which an unskilled bread maker has put upon his wheat. Or take any other of the Farmers crops and try it in the same ways. Let the purchaser of a pig take it on trial, and if it does not give as large a litter as he wishes, refuse to pay for it and return the original animal, wear and tare not to be paid for. Or a cow, and if she does not give exactly as much milk, or make as much butter and cheese as the purchaser wants his cow to make, send it back two or three hundred miles at the Farmer's expense and without compensation. The princi-

ple is a wrong one. A new invention, untried and as yet not established as a success, may properly be placed before the Farmers for trial and the inventor or someone skilled in its working accompany it; but this not in the way of sale; but as a public exhibition of its merits.

Agricultural implements are now as staple as any other goods, as sugar or salt, as corn or tobacco, and it is supposing the Farmer to be a very ignorant man to tell him not to buy a plow or a harrow, a spade or a rake, a seed sower or a drill, a mower or a reaper, until he has used it enough to make it a second hand implement, should he desire to send it back to the manufacturer. We are not one to have the Farmer run any risks in the purchase of his tools, and we are inclined to have him act with caution and great care in their purchase; but when he needs an implement which he already has seen in operation and, knows to be a good one, what justice is there to the manufacturer in asking for it on trial, or why should he be offended if the trial is refused? Many reasons would impel the manufacturer of such an implement to refuse it. It has got beyond the trial style; it has proved itself all that its maker claims for it. It is in enough demand by real purchasers to keep his manufactory busy. Those wanting machines on trial are generally those who have had no experience and know little or nothing about their management, and are readily disposed to change their mind, by the prompting of the first agent of a rival machine who may chance to "buttonhole" them. Machines, if returned, have a second hand appearance, for novices do not generally improve what they handle. These, and many other reasons prevent the makers of good implements from sending them out on trial. Doubtful implements, loudly "puffed" and advertised in questionable ways, may be sent on trial, and may work long enough to secure

a purchaser; still we would consider them of a doubtful character.

We must therefore consider such advice as much an injury to the Farmer, as it is unjust to the manufacturer of a really good implement.

One more consideration is worthy of mention. Should the advice here given be acted upon generally, the manufacturers of implements, in order to cover the risks and additional expenses, would be forced to increase the price of their implements very largely; and thus those Farmers who are ready to purchase understandingly, would be forced to pay perhaps 25 per cent more than would otherwise be the case, because of this action. Thus the Farmers would themselves be the sufferers.

To show the unreasonableness of this advice, take the single case of the city of Chicago. During the year just ended the manufacturers of that city turned out \$11,850,000 worth of agricultural implements, employing 3,700 workmen, and using a capital of \$5,000,000. It would be somewhat ridiculous to require this amount to be sent out "on trial," and in fact it would be an utter impossibility to do this work on such a basis. And this is only one manufacturing centre.

The best way is get a good, well known, well established implement and pay for it, and if by chance it is not in good working order the manufacturer will always see that it is put in that condition without any additional expense to the Farmer.

It is stated that Armour & Co., of Chicago, killed 1,112,969 cattle, 380,656 hogs, and 85,777 sheep during the past year. They canned nearly 40,000,000 pounds of meat, and now are at work filling a contract for the French government. They employ over 5,000 hands in their works, and 150 office clerks.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

OATS RAISING.

JOHN M. STAHL.

Many farmers say they find oats an unprofitable crop, but my experience has been to the contrary. I believe that when oats are not profitable, it is because of faults in growing or marketing them, or both; barring, of course, those localities wherein the soil or climate is greatly against this crop. Oats require a moist climate, such as England possesses. Our summers are too hot and dry to be strictly favorable to oats. Hence we must get them in early, that they may be well along before the hot, dry weather sets in. Herein lies the fault with the methods of many in growing oats. They do not sow early enough. Early sown oats are, one year with another, much the better. They should be got to growing at the earliest seasonable moment. If corn stalks or other stuff is to be got off the ground, this work should be done without delay. If put off till the ground is in condition to be stirred, a mistake is made, for stirring the ground should be begun at the earliest moment. I rarely plow the ground for oats. Instead, I cut it up with a disk harrow or loosen it with the corn cultivators. This is speedier than plowing, and gives better results. It is a mistake often made to plow the land for oats; and the mistake is more serious if the land is plowed deep. However, the land should be plowed if *very* hard, and then plowed deep; after which it should be made as compact as possible, to retain the moisture better. In this country oats do best on a compact seed bed, save two inches of fine, loose dirt on the surface—Roll the ground with a heavy roller as soon as the seed is sown and covered. This will retain the moisture in the ground, which is so beneficial to the oats that I attach the highest importance to this rolling. If the rolling

cannot be done until the oats appear above the surface, it is better to do it then than not at all, if the ground is in good condition. But always it is best to roll immediately after sowing and covering; and the ground should not be rolled after the oats have attained a height of some inches, for this will do more harm than good. I have tried drilling oats, but prefer broadcast seeding. There are not the advantages in drilling oats that there are in drilling winter wheat. For the oats are not subjected to freezing, hence do not need the protection of the ridges formed by the drill. A careful man, of a still day, will get the seed distributed evenly, and if the seed bed is in proper condition the seed will be covered uniformly. To drilling oats there is this positive objection—the weeds are apt to spring up in the spaces between the drills.

So much for growing oats; now for marketing them. I must confess that the profits on my oats crop would sometimes be small were I to market it off my farm. But I can always get a good price for oats by feeding them on the farm. They are just the food for growing or milch or work animals. Corn, (grain or fodder) oats, wheat or rye straw, timothy, red top or orchard grass hay, contain an excess of the carbohydrates for growing or milch animals. But for these animals or work animals, oats have the carbohydrates and albuminoids in the proper ratio; and by mixing them with the straws or with corn we make a ration having the proper albuminoid ratio. The person conversant with the science of stock feeding knows that because of this the oats are doubly valuable; a large produce is made from them, and they save the waste of the carbohydrates in excess in other foods. The straw of oats makes a valuable stock food. To get its full value it must be cut early, when yet a little green, and this increases, rather than diminishes, the value of the

grain. If cut early, and properly cured and stored, a ton of oats straw is worth for cattle feeding as much as two-thirds of a ton of good timothy hay. This value has been put upon oats straw by careful feeders after actual tests. Oats cannot be expected to be profitable when no use is made of the straw. Quincy, Ill.

EXTRACTS FROM DEER CREEK FARMERS' CLUB.

FARM LABOR IN WINTER.

The question announced for discussion was: "How can we give employment to farm labor during the winter months?"

Bennett H. Barnes thought anything that could be done in winter to forward the work of the spring would be a saving of time. There are always odds and ends to be done in winter. Getting wood is a large item. The most of his father's place had been cleared and ditched in winter. Last year after Christmas they had dug and filled an ice house, at little cost in money.—Stock requires more attention in winter than they usually get.

Thomas Lochary said that anything that can be done in the summer season can be done at less expense than in winter. There is very little work that can be done profitably in winter.—Hands might be employed to advantage in winter in getting out fencing stuff and firewood to last all the year.

Geo. J. Finney's plan is to hire one man by the year and another until Dec. 1st. Generally the weather in winter is so bad that he cannot find work enough for one hand. He prefers to hire by the day for such work as he has done in winter.

Jas. W. Hanna was of the opinion that most hands would rather be employed by the day than the month in winter. He has rails cut by the 100 and wood by the cord.

John Moores spoke of the necessity of having good labor and said farmers stand in their own light by not keeping their hands by the year.—You can then teach them your methods and they will suit you better than any other hands. He employs the same hands winter and summer and finds plenty for them to do. He has

had one hand for 40 years and another 20 years. In the winter his hands split rails, hew posts, get fencing ready and dig and make ditches. Then there is ice to be cut and hauled, logs to be cut and taken to the saw mill, for future building, cattle, sheep and cows to be fed, &c. It costs but little more to hire hands for 12 months than 9 months. Three months of idleness disorganizes hands.

R. Harris Archer said that on any farm of not over 150 acres of arable land, in good condition one man can do all the work necessary to be done in winter. A farmer is pretty well tied up in summer and if he has the same number of hands in winter as in summer, he is obliged to stay at home even more constantly than in summer, to direct them. Besides fewer hands in winter gives rest to the women folks. At least half of the farm hands don't want to work all the winter by the month. They can make more by jobbing.

David E. Wilson has very little stock. The only advantage to him to have a man in winter is that he can sit by the fire while the hand is feeding.

Judge Watters said he had always advocated the policy of farmers employing hands by the year. It is better for both employers and employes. Hands must live and it is the business of the employer to help them. He did not mean to say that the same rate should be paid for 12 months as for 8 or 9 months, but it is better for a farm hand to take nearly the same for 12 months as for 9 months. There is always something to be done in winter—wood and rails to get, fences to repair, sometimes stones to be gathered, all of which can be done by regular hands. A farmer who employs hands in the summer must take care of them in winter, directly or indirectly.

The best hands are those who want steady employment, and steady employment makes them better hands. If you turn them loose in the winter to hunt possums they will get into bad habits.

Johns H. Janney had been employing more hands than most people, and while it was a problem whether he was not losing money thereby, he could not do without them. He always find plenty for them to do. If a laboring man makes

more working by the day it certainly costs the farmer more to hire him by the day. Yearly hands are decidedly the best hands. He has some hands who used to do nothing in winter.—Now he employs them the entire year and finds them better.

Thomas A. Hayes said when he was farming he could always find enough for his men to do in winter. If a farm is in good condition, not as many hands are required in winter as in summer. The trouble with him had been to find time to do all the work he wanted to do in winter. Hands get into bad habits if not kept employed steadily.

Hargraves Spalding thought it wise to employ as many hands by the year as you give employment to. There is always something for hands to do in winter.

Geo. E. Silver said he employs in the summer from 6 to 8 hands by the month. He has them to support all the year round, and the question is, is it more profitable to hire them for 9 months or for the entire twelve months. Can we not find something for our hands to do to support them in winter? The man who loses 3 months of the year acquires bad habits, is always in debt and has no heart for his work. Hands should be regarded as members of the family and what is the cheapest way to keep them and what is the best way for them to be kept? If we could give them work 12 months it would be better for them and for us. We should pay fair wages and demand a good day's work.

Wm. Webster said it depended a good deal on circumstances whether a farmer could hire hands to greater advantage 12 months than 9 months.

Ordinarily one industrious man can run a farm of 100 acres of cultivated land by hiring a hand 9 months of the year, but if the man don't work himself two hands must be hired. There is always work to be done in winter and the more work that is done then the less necessity there will be for hiring extra hands. A hand who is kept through the winter and treated fairly is disposed to do a full day's work in summer.

E. P. Moores never saw the day there was not something to do on the farm. A

corn sheller or fodder cutter will always give employment. Men who will work all winter should be encouraged. If you keep your hands through the winter when spring plowing comes on you know where to find them. Such hands take an interest in our affairs.

Wm. B. Hopkins finds winter his busiest season. He tries to keep his hands as long as he can and finds that the longer he keeps them the better he can get along with them.

Jas. F. Kenly approved of giving men work in winter, if possible, but circumstances alter cases. Mr. Lee, who keeps 100 head of cattle, finds three men necessary, but a man on a small farm could find employment for so many in winter. Some work may be done to advantage in winter. On his farm 150 acres were cleared chiefly in winter, but often our winters are such that nothing of that kind can be done.

Wm. Munnikhuysen said he always finds employment for one or two hands in winter. Yearly hands are more satisfactory than monthly hands. It is better, too, for the hands to give them constant employment. They should be paid promptly.

S. M. Lee prefers to get all the work done in winter that will relieve him in summer, thereby giving hands constant employment. There is some work which can be done to better advantage in winter than in summer—that is, hauling out manure. Observation and experience had taught him this fact. Even with the loss of part of it by being washed away it will pay better to put it on the land in winter than in summer. He had found that yearly hands get more money in the course of the year than those he hired by the day.

Wm. D. Lee said that as low as farm products are now he has not found it to pay him to hire many hands during the rough winter weather. If hands have a little rest they will do better work in the spring. If a farmer has a good hand during the winter he is apt to sit around the fire or go around too much.

R. John Rogers, the President, said the propriety of employing the same force winter and summer depends upon the character of farming done. Where a large

number of cattle are kept many hands are required to care for them in winter, but on a farm of ordinary size, where two hands are needed in summer there is generally work for not more than one in winter. He had found that men who are employed 9 months didn't care to work longer. He did not think that a man is worth any more on a farm than his board during the winter months. He was opposed to hauling out manure on frozen ground.

The next regular meeting of the club will be held at the residence of Benj. Silver, Jr., January 8th, 1887.—*The Ægis and Intelligencer*.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

CABBAGE CULTURE.—FERTILIZERS FOR WHEAT AND GRASS.

—CARPET CLEANING.— GRAPE CATSUP.

As usual I have been successful in raising cabbage the past season, using ground plaster as the only preventative or destroyer of worms. My experience shows me cabbage should not be worked very deep, the ground about them only being kept open and light and sufficiently hilled, all weeds and grass must be kept out.

In regard to fertilizers, we would make a poor show without them on wheat and grass. Yet I think the cost of fertilizers could be lessened by having soil analyzed, and using such elements as it lacked. I had the soil of the field I put in wheat examined by a chemist and geologist last summer. The chemicals he advised me to purchase for a ton, cost \$10, but I thought I would like to spend a little more money—so to every ten dollars worth of chemicals I mixed one ton of Mores Phosphatic Guano, costing \$18 per ton—which with the chemicals made Twenty Four Hundred weight of fertilizer, costing \$28. I had the mixture drilled side by side with a well known brand (not Mores) of fertilizer costing me \$35 per ton. Through a mistake of the driller, three hundred

pounds of the high priced fertilizers was drilled to the acre, and only two hundred and twenty five of the chemically prepared phosphate—yet during the whole Fall, and at the present time no one could see any difference in the growth or appearance of the wheat. I would call the attention of the farmers to this Phosphatic Guano, as being the best article I have ever sown for grass, when the fields show signs of becoming bare. I find it better than bone or barn-yard manure. Two years ago I sowed five ton on twenty three acres, and this year the grass crop was the wonder and admiration of the country. I am an experimenter, and often my friends warn me I will fail—but I don't.

Perhaps all ladies do not know that new fallen snow will clean and brighten carpets much better than the damp cloth. Sweep the carpet and then scatter the snow over it and sweep off with a broom. The room must not be so warm as to melt the snow perceptibly. New fallen snow will clean cloth coats and dresses very nicely.

I put up grape catsup this year, and like it better than tomato, no vinegar is used, and more sugar than for tomatoes, spice to suit the taste, no onions, the pulp is used only, the skins or hulls can be preserved or dried.

The agricultural papers are congratulating the Farmers over the appropriation of \$15,000 to each State and Territory for Experimental Stations. If the Farmers would look over the Sundry civil bill they would not feel as if they were very lucky in *their* appropriations.

Uncle Sam's farm is quite extensive, and his Treasury plethoric and the surplus should be used to make these United States a fit and convenient habitation for his people.

Lady Farmer.

Fairfax Co. Va.

MARTHA A. HARRISON.

Good Tools.

Nothing is more important in the hands of the farmer than good tools, and the winter months are the best months of the year in which to make preparations for securing them. Look over your stock of implements and put them all in first-class order. Do this by cleaning them perfectly; see that the wood work is complete in all respects; examine every bolt and nut, and replace all that are badly worn; if needed, use a liberal portion of paint as a preservative. The best article to clean off the grease from running parts is kerosene, or benzine, and then a liberal application of cotton waste. If you have found you need any particular implement, take the time to see where you can get the best one, and secure it in season.

Winter Meetings.

Farmers should not forget that during the winter evenings all the progress in the agricultural world can be learned by them through the medium of the press, or by means of social gatherings where the news may be imparted and all subjects be pleasantly discussed. Let these winter meetings, however, be social and sociable in the highest degree, take your wife and children with you. They will enjoy the knowledge of passing events fully as much as you, and it will be a great source of enjoyment to them to listen to the discussions of current topics, and to become familiar with the things which interest Farmers generally, and which will promote the prosperity of the community in which they are living, including their own prosperity in particular. Have your winter meetings, and make each one a sociable gathering for mutual benefit.

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DULL TIMES.

American farmers hardly realize the extent to which they are better off than those on the other side of the water, engaged in the same pursuit. The difference between owning without incumbrance and under moderate taxation, lands worth \$20 to \$50 an acre, and owning nothing in the form of reality, but on the other hand, having to pay a rental of \$5 and upwards an acre for the privilege of fertilizing and tilling it, constitutes a material difference in the situation. Hence, when farmers get together and talk over their hard lot, it would be more fitting if they would devote a reasonable portion of time to discussing how best to utilize their land, and what they are carrying upon it, and how best to economize, indoors and out, that both ends may more nearly meet.

 Increase Per Acre.

The great object of every Farmer should be to increase the amount he can raise on each single acre of ground. He should not be content with what is generally raised by himself or his neighbors, but he should study how he may increase his yield per acre. If to-day he is getting eight barrels of corn from his acre; let him study seriously and strive manfully to make it ten, twelve or sixteen. In some parts of the country fields have been made to yield, all things having been favorable, twenty barrels to the acre. It would not be wrong to strive even for this amount, after having achieved the previous ones. We, however, put it mildly to begin with, lest we be taken to task for asking too much in the beginning.

THERE is no better time in the year to devise plans for farm improvement than winter, when the mind is free to apply thought.

SOMETHING ABOUT TOBACCO.

 THE LOW PRICES CAUSED BY OVER-PRODUCTION AND UNSKILLED CULTIVATION.

The following communication to the *Daily Register* from Major W. T. Sutherland, of Danville, who has had large experience in both the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco:

The extreme low price of tobacco and the dullness of the trade with manufacturers and dealers, is causing great anxiety among the farmers of this section of Virginia and North Carolina, and the constant inquiries by my friends and neighbors as to the cause, and how to remedy their evils, have induced me reluctantly to write this letter,

I deem it proper first to direct attention to some of the reasons for the existing state of depression.

The production of tobacco is in excess of the demand, the accumulation is so great that but few people will purchase it, except at prices that are ruinous to the producers, because they do not now see when or where they can dispose of it for a profit. This over-production has been going on for years, until it has reached its climax.

The fact that tobacco kept up in price longer than any other article of farm product of this country, induced many to abandon the cultivation of cotton and grain, and even to plow up beautiful fields of blue grass to make tobacco, until about one-half of all the States are producing large quantities of tobacco. In this way the accumulation has become so great, and the price so low, that it strikes terror to producer, manufacturer and dealer alike. Nearly all are loaded down with stock, and a new crop is soon to be thrown upon the market to further depress trade and reduce prices. In addition, the cultivation of tobacco is being extended all

over the world, and many foreign countries that were important purchasers of our product are getting a large part of their supplies elsewhere.

In many sections tobacco has been grown on unsuitable lands, and by unexperienced and unskilled cultivators, without suitable buildings and other appliances for its proper handling, greatly increasing the supply of inferior grades that cannot be profitably used for any purpose, thus adding to the already accumulated stock of poor tobacco to further depress a prostrate market.

The habit of many land owners in this section to intrust the cultivation of their farms to ignorant and unskilled tenants, who make nothing but common tobacco that will not sell for enough in many cases to pay for the fertilizers, or even the hauling and warehouse charges, has much to do with the cry of "hard times" now. The purchase of provisions and fertilizers in such large quantities, is one of the great evils of our system, and that alone, if persisted in, will ruin us.

The large amount of money we annually pay out for horses and mules contributes no little to our lack of thrift and prosperity.

It is the opinion of many persons that the internal revenue tax by the government has contributed largely to bring about the present depression in the price of tobacco, which is doubtless true to a considerable extent.

Another evil is the general tendency to over-cropping. The mistaken ambition of many tobacco growers is to aim for quantity rather than quality, ignoring the fact that one pound of fine tobacco will sell on the markets for more than five, or even ten pounds of common, and also the inclination to hold on to the old maxim of "the lower the price the larger the crop."

The indisposition to raise horses, cattle,

sheep and hogs, and the little attention given to poultry, vegetables and fruits, contributes largely to the lack of prosperity and home comforts of the farm.

Another reason for our depression and lack of prosperity is that, notwithstanding we constitute about one-half the population of this country, we are practically without representation in councils of the nation, and are common prey for all professions and callings. The result is we are heavily taxed to protect all other industries, foreign countries in great measure, against our surplus products, forcing us to accept a home market and continued reduction in prices and enhanced charges on what we buy. We are confronted on all sides by monopolists, and also by powerful organizations of all other classes of workingmen, to protect their labor and enhance their wages, while the farmers are plodding along, each one thinking and acting for himself, independent of the rest. I might continue this list of errors and mistakes but I have said enough to arrest the attention of the thoughtful reader, and he can supply the omissions. I hope at no distant day to present the other side of the picture, with some suggestions for our present help, and also for the improvement of our agricultural and tobacco growing system.

DANVILLE, VA., Dec. 8.

W. T. SUTHERLIN.

FARMERS' meetings should be experience meetings. Time is too valuable to be spent in oratorical flourish.

CATARRH CURED.—A clergyman, after years of suffering from that loathsome disease, catarrh, and vainly trying every known remedy, at last found a prescription which completely cured and saved him from death. Any sufferer from this dreadful disease sending a self addressed stamped envelope to Dr. Lawrence, 213 East 6th St., New York, will receive the recipe free of charge.

SOWING GRASS AND CLOVER SEEDS.

It is the common practice to sow grass and clover seeds with grain, but this is hardly the best plan. Either the grass or the grain must be crowded. If the grain is materially stunted, the loss will more than equal the gain resulting from having the land occupied by two crops at once. If the grain is a full crop, the grass and clover will be so weakly that if the weather is dry just after the cutting off of the grain exposes the grass, the grass will die to a great extent. And though the weather, just after the grain is cut, be favorable to the grass and clover, they will be so retarded by the grain that they will make little pasture or hay that year, and either pasturing or mowing will be hazardous. Very often two crops may economically occupy the land in one season, or even at the same time; but these crops do not include grain and grass or clover. Very rarely is it really economy of land to sow grass and clover with grain. Nor is it economy of time. For when sown with grain, the grass and clover make very little growth the first year, as already noted, and utilizing that little subjects the grass to the risk of extinction. If the grass and clover have the land to themselves, they will make two and possibly three good mowings the first year, on strong land; and one good mowing and a heavy aftermath at least, on moderately productive land.

Some grasses may be sown in the fall or through the winter; all may be sown in the early spring, and will be as far along by May as if sown in the fall. Clover should be sown in the spring always. It is important to sow in the *early* spring; and the danger from freezing is much less than is generally supposed. If the ground is very solid, it must first be loosened, and of course this work must be deferred

until the ground is in condition to work nicely. But this will be necessary only when the ground is very hard. Passing over the land twice with a sharp harrow will usually suffice. The seeds are to be allowed to sink into the soil themselves; or, when this is doubtful on account of character or condition of the ground, they may be pressed into the soil by passing over the land with a light roller.

S. M. J.

To the Editor of Maryland Farmer.

AN INTERESTING LETTER FROM A LADY CORRESPONDENT IN VIRGINIA.

A New Year's greeting to the MARYLAND FARMER may not be unwelcome. The Journal has long had our hearty support and commendation. And whilst it presents itself in an attractive form every month, may we not inquire what has become of its female contributors. A farm journal necessarily implies utility, yet all ladies are not farmers, or farmers wives and daughters. The thought has been often suggested what has become of the ladies' department. Surely the withdrawal of P. P's interesting letters has not overshadowed the intellect of its many sprightly and much valued female correspondents. We miss one and all of them. The information it furnishes upon the best methods of farming, the growing interest it awakens and cultivates in the mind of the farmer, the products and profits of the dairy, the advance in poultry raising and all the varied industries which go to make up the farmer's life, and increase his income, are always addressed to the farmer alone, and calculated to enlarge his sphere of usefulness so long as he follows in the track of improvement and development. To make the journal attractive to the ladies, there must be something that touches the heart more nearly a combination of the useful with

the beautiful, the cultivation of flowers, the revival of old time customs and habits now almost obsolete, but which if cultivated and improved upon would make as great a change in our modern household's, as the old methods of farming and the new in the Agriculture department. The embroidered afghan, the crazy quilt, (which surely deserves the name) are all well enough in their places, yet a list of simple receipts for every-day use, blending harmoniously with the decorative talent so largely patronized by the modern lovers of art, all these and many minor things might be studied and written about in a manner both instructive and useful. Will you excuse us if we institute a comparison? After thirty years of absence the fortunes of war brought us back to our native place. Thirty years ago the steam engine had not touched our soil. With its absence the forests were levelled, clusters of trees, belts and strips of woodland, reaching over a large area from the Mass-sawnutten on the east to the North Mountains on the west, were all swept away in the desire for gain, the progress of the age and civilization (so called) demanding the sacrifice of our grand old forests, it may be to enrich the monopolists. It was in vain the heart would cry out in anguish. Woodman spare that tree, as one landmark after another was ruthlessly destroyed, and where the great oak and pine once waved in the summer breeze, nothing could be seen in many places but the barren earth rudely cultivated, in others, stunted cedars of a few years growth, and stubby pines. Again and again it sent a chill to the heart, which could only echo back its longings for the familiar scenes which greeted its early dawn, and formed so much a part of those pleasant years. From our present stand-point we look back to the earlier days of the MARYLAND FARMER. In it we find gems of poetry, wit and wisdom,

literature and science, rich and rare blending together so harmoniously, and making such an interesting and varied assortment that the memory of those pure delights is still as fragrant as summer roses. Its bright passages and pleasant fancies beguiled many an otherwise lonely or weary hour into one of the purest enjoyment in the home and around the fireside. We cherish the memory of those early days of its infancy and growing importance, as in our own early the grand old forests which stood the crowning monarchs of the hills. To-day the forests are levelled, the stunted pines and rank undergrowth has witness to the utilitarian spirit of the age, the poetry, the sentiment, the things lovely and of good report, are lost in the hum of machinery, the whirl of business, the din of making things pay, and the best methods of extracting out of mother earth the most good for the least possible expenditure of labor and means. And now at the risk of being dubbed old foggy, we send our letter wishing the MARYLAND FARMER an increase of female contributors, and that the year 1887 may be one of greater prosperity to both the enterprising editor, and all in any way connected with its interests.

Virginia.

Mrs. M. A. G.

THE only way that farmers can become intelligent, influential, progressing men is to read, listen, observe and reflect. They must keep their eyes and ears open. They must acquire knowledge as other professional men do.

READING and study should be encouraged by providing interesting papers, books and periodicals for family use. The farmer who fails to do this is doing an act of injustice to those in whose welfare his deepest interests should centre.

LIVE-STOCK REGISTERS.

FARM ANIMALS IN FEBRUARY.

Likely February is the most trying month of the year upon farm animals. The weather is exceedingly variable, suddenly changeable, not infrequently severe. It is not so much the low temperature, although as cold days as we have are usually included in February, as the sudden changes from one extreme to another, which proves so injurious to live stock. In addition the animals are not in so good condition as could be desired to withstand the vigor, of the month. They have been confined and kept upon dry food for months, weakening and debilitating them somewhat. If they had the vigor of three months previous to oppose to the elements, February would not leave so plain a mark upon them.

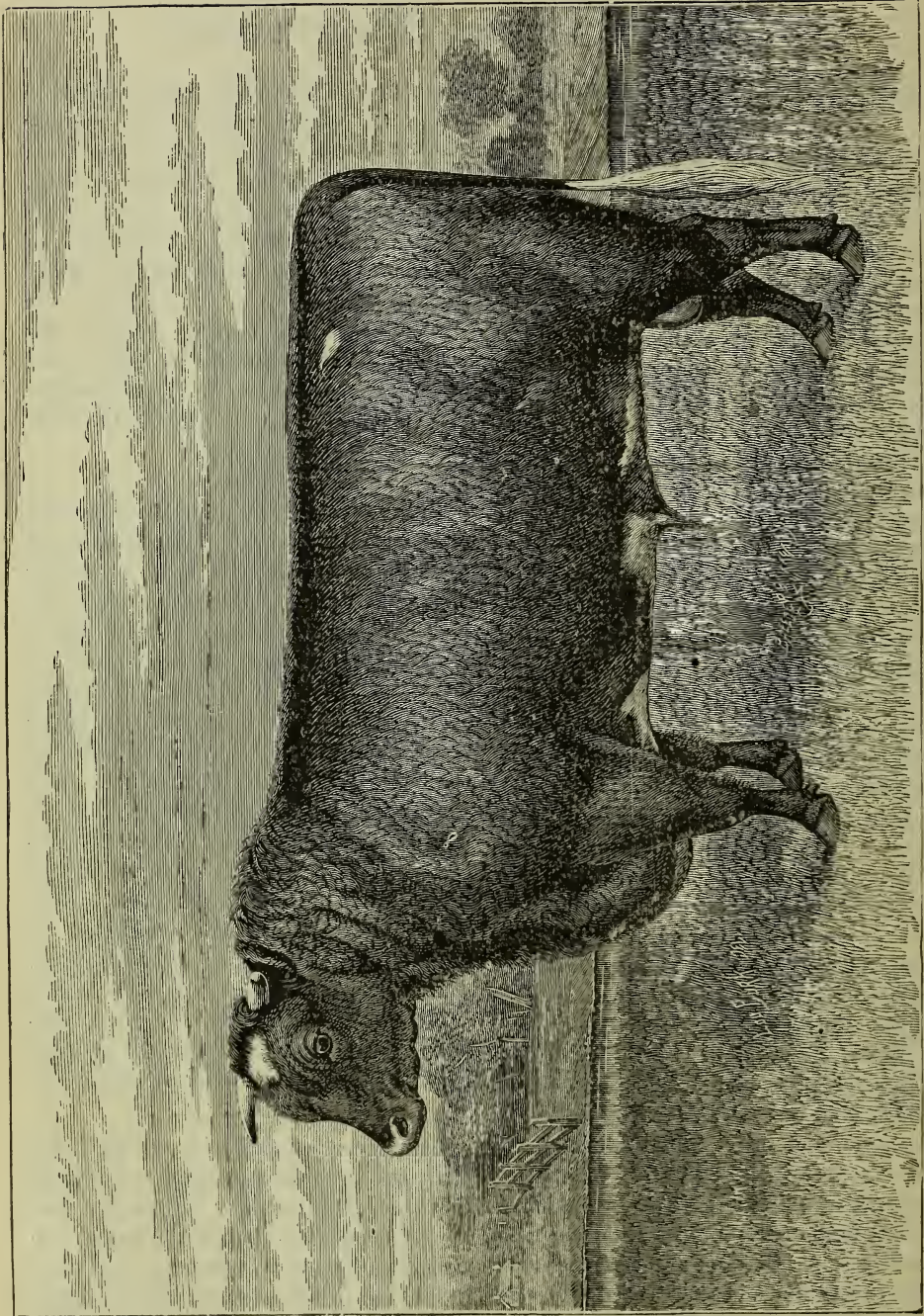
When such conditions prevail, extra feed and attention are to be recommended; and recommended all the more earnestly, because it is during this month that spare rations and attentions are most apt to be given. The extremes in temperature affect the farmer as much as they do his live property, and make him disposed to hurry through the feeding, watering, bedding and currying, that he may sooner get beside the comfortable fire. If we are ever attacked with gloomy forebodings of insufficient feed, it is during February. The cold snaps incline us to prophesy a late spring; and the feed is getting low in the mow and crib. This induces us to give scant rations, when full rations are imperatively required. To allow animals to lose flesh or stop in growth at any time is disastrous; but most disastrous now, when they have been carried through three of the winter months. To replace a pound of flesh lost requires three times as

much food as would have been required to retain the pound. Hence the disaster there is in allowing animals to lose flesh, especially flesh put on by winter feeding; and hence the wisdom of paying high prices for feed, if buying it is necessary, in order to keep the animals on full rations during this month. Hence, also, the economy of using bedding liberally, for bedding is the conservator of bodily heat, or energy, hence of thrift. Feed liberally, bed plentifully, and treat kindly the farm animals during February.

In the drawing, next page Mr. Burke has given what is in most respects a capital likeness of one of the most promising young Short-horn bulls in the West, Mr. S. E. Prather's Benvenuto's Booth 68378. He is a red of April 16, 1883, bred by Messrs. B. P. & S. D. Goff, Winchester, Ky.; got by that successful sire, Major Booth 30240 (bought by Mr. Prather at the Goff sale at Dexter Park a few years since), dam Benvenuto's Queen (A. H. B. Vol. 29), by Benvenuto 16275; 2d dam Queen of the Realm by Star of the Realm 11021; 3d dam imp. Forest Queen, a very noted Aylmer-Booth cow, imported by Hon. M. H. Cochrane, of Hillhurst, Can. sold at Abram Vanmeter's sale of Aug 2.

Mr. S. E. Prather is a man who possesses the entire confidence of all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance.

Lambs can be taught to drink cow's milk, and by adding oatmeal to the milk they will grow rapidly. From the first day of its existence until marketed, the young lamb must be kept warm and comfortable, as it will make but little progress, even with the very best of food, if it suffers from cold or exposure.



SHORT-HORN BULL BENVENUTO'S BOOTH 68378 AT THREE YEARS, PROPERTY OF MR. S. E. PRATHER, Riverdale Stock Farm, Springfield, Ill.

AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION.

The Farmers' Convention met in Baltimore, January 12th, with about 200 delegates present, representing almost every county in the State, among whom were many of the very best Farmers in the State of Maryland, and during its session took an active part in the business of the body. It is certainly not from the want of substantial men, men of great executive ability and of exceptional intelligence, if a great amount of good failed to be accomplished by the two days session of this Convention. It must be placed to other causes, over which those present had but little control. It was, however, a good meeting of earnest men—men who showed by speech and action that they were ready to labor for the best interests of the Farmers of the State of Maryland.

The Convention was called to order promptly by its president Ex-Governor Hamilton who made the following address:

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Gov. Hamilton being called on for an address said that nothing he could say would promote the cause or enlighten the audience. He did not come prepared to make any formal address, and more information might be derived from general discussion. He was gratified to see so many present. The organization was extending and would continue, not as a thing of a year but of successive years. Last year was bad enough for the agricultural interests, and they were probably worse off to-day. No class was so much depressed as the agricultural and mechanical interests. There were no prices for wheat, and corn and tobacco, and cattle were threatened with disease, being high to buy and low to sell. "It is not encouraging, but we can't afford to give up. You don't suppose that this government can afford to

make you all office holders with high pay and nothing to do. We must depend on our land and try to make both ends meet. We must measure our coat by the length and breadth of our cloth. We must encourage labor and economy. If the agriculturists and mechanics look to the government to give them a living, they will go down and the government will go down with them." [Applause.]

Following the address a committee on credentials was appointed; but before they had entered upon their duties, it was moved that the committee be discharged and all of the Farmers present be invited to seats and to take part in the deliberations of the convention. After considerable discussion it was decided by the chair that the constitution required this committee and only the appointed delegates could have voice and vote in the convention. While the committee were engaged in their work, Mr. Seth and Dr. Patterson made their very able reports upon Contagious Diseases of Live Stock. These reports were certainly of great value, and should rightfully be placed in the hands of every Farmer in our State. They were listened to with that interest and attention which showed that their merits were appreciated. We can only give here a few of the principle points elaborated by them. Being employed by the State and general government they have had the opportunity to become thoroughly posted upon the subject.

DISEASES AMONG CATTLE.

T. Alexander Seth, of the committee on contagious diseases among live stock, reported that the contagious diseases now prevalent in Maryland are pleuro-pneumonia in cattle, swine plague or hog cholera in swine, and glanders in horses. Pleuro-pneumonia seems to have its permanent habitation in Southern Russia, from whence it found its way into continental Europe, and thence into Holland,

and thence to America, where it has gradually spread until now the whole Atlantic coast, from Connecticut to Southern Virginia, is contaminated. There can be no doubt, the report says, that, had the national government, in whose hands the exclusive control of foreign commerce is placed, adopted in proper time, proper quarantine regulations against such countries as were known to be infected, the disease would never have found a lodgment in this country, and for this reason there can be no doubt that the duty to extirpate the disease is on the national government, particularly as in some States it has grown to such dimensions as to be beyond the control of the States. The disease until recently had been confined to the Atlantic coast, but on more than one occasion it has broken out in the West. In Chicago it has recently assumed alarming proportions. It is alleged that the outbreaks West are due to cattle shipped from Maryland, whose reputation has assumed such evil proportions that it is impossible to send Maryland cattle into any State west of the Ohio river, owing to quarantine regulations against the State, while private buyers in other States will not purchase from Maryland. There are to-day over 200 Maryland stables in quarantine, and the disease doubtless exists in many more not yet discovered. The disease, however, is unknown except in Baltimore city and county and Carroll and Prince George's counties. A large herd in Howard county was affected last August, but it was slaughtered and the trouble wiped out. A thorough recent inspection of the Eastern Shore failed to find any evidence that the disease had ever been on the Peninsula, though many Eastern Shore butchers buy from the State stock-yards, a section long infected. The losses by hog cholera in Maryland for several years past have exceeded half a million dollars per annum. But little

glanders in horses has been found in the State, and on this subject the committee does not think the government obliged to protect the citizens from diseases that are indigenous to the country. The chicken cholera has also entailed great loss on the agriculturalists.

One of the greatest hindrances of the effective enforcement to the law, the report says, is the habit of concealing practiced by cattle-owners and the habit of selling surreptitiously to unscrupulous butchers diseased animals, each of which was practiced to a great extent in Baltimore. The appointment of the sanitary board under the act of 1886 was referred to, and the report says their system of quarantine, inexpensive and efficient, has received the commendation of the commissioner of agriculture. This consists of a small padlock and chain placed around the horns or neck of each exposed animal, the key kept by the board, so as to prevent spiriting away of diseased animals or substitutions, and making violations of quarantine extremely hazardous. Fully 3,000 cattle have been locked for at least ninety days each, and there has not been a single violation of law. A recent report of the commissioner of agriculture shows that Maryland is the only State which has lived up to its agreement with the agricultural department in its co-operation for stamping out the disease. Since August the government has kept seven inspectors in Maryland. In the same time there were killed 479 animals at a cost of \$9,650, or \$20 10 apiece. Of these the government killed 355, at an average cost of \$22.46 and the State 124, at an average cost of \$13.43. There were 566 stables inspected, containing 5,107 cattle, exclusive of inspections at the stock-yards. Of the inspections, 717 cattle were found to be infected. The amount spent by the government in Maryland since August 1, was \$25,000. The State has also caused the

slaughter of two horses affected with glanders. The report recommends a plan of co-operation between the National and State governments, by which the commerce between the States is left to the control of the general government, and the local quarantine measures and the penalties, the condemning of private property for public use and fixing the value thereof, are left to the States. By this plan a citizen charged with violating a law he does not understand, need not be carried with his witnesses a hundred miles before a United States commissioner, but may have a hearing before a justice of the peace in his own county and there tried. The committee fear, however, that the plan is about to be abandoned, the commissioner of agriculture having reported that it was a failure, no State but Maryland having co-operated with him. If the disease of pleuro-pneumonia once get lodgment in the great unfenced pastures of the West it will never be eradicated, but will destroy untold wealth and make meat on the poor man's table a thing of the past. This threatened damage to the meat supply seems to be appreciated by the present congress, and it is likely to adopt some heroic measures at the present session. The pending bill provides for a commission of three, clothed with extraordinary powers. Maryland, by reason of her condition and on account of her honest efforts to eradicate the disease, should be represented on that commission. The report, therefore, recommends that a committee of three, with the chair as one, be appointed to wait on President Cleveland and urge him to appoint one of the commission from Maryland, should the bill pass. The failure of Congress to act at this time probably means the destruction of a cheap meat supply, in which the laboring man of this country has so much the advantage of his fellows over the world. The prohibition by law is recommended of the practice of allowing animals

dead of contagious diseases to lie on the surface or be thrown into streams. Appended to the report was a resolution instructing the secretary of the convention to memorialize the Maryland Senators and Representatives to give their earnest support to such bills as will in their opinion most effectually rid the country of all exotic contagious animal diseases.

ANOTHER REPORT.

Dr. F. W. Patterson, of the same committee, and also an inspector in the bureau of animal industry of the United States agricultural department, made a supplemental report. He dwelt particularly on the swine plague, or hog cholera, giving its characteristics, extent, &c. Its ravages in the Eastern Shore counties ranged as high in some places as 75 per cent. The disease is caused by bacteria or a germ. If it were possible to destroy the germ it would be easy to stop the plague. But unfortunately there is nothing that will destroy the germ that will not kill the hog. The killing of infected animals is believed to be the only feasible plan to stop the disease. He recommends, first, that every infected animal be killed at once and buried deep, and it would be well also to kill all exposed to the contagion or place them in quarantine; second, the Legislature should pass a law compelling every man to bury every animal of any kind dying on his farm, and a severer penalty on those who throw the dead into streams. He offered a resolution to that effect, making it necessary either to burn or bury three feet deep the animals who die of the plague.

Mr. Seth's and Dr. Patterson's reports and resolutions were adopted.

Col. H. Kyd Douglass, of the Committee on Experimental Station, made a verbal report and referred to the action of the Legislature last winter providing for a board of five commissioners to examine the

subject and report to the next Legislature. One of the members of this Board was to be named by the Farmers' convention, and before the adjournment Mr. Douglass was chosen.

The eleven Standing Committees of the Convention, each committee consisting of seven members, making 77 committee men, were called upon for reports; but no further reports were ready. Several special committees were appointed. We fear these large committees from different quarters of the State make a rather unwieldy body. Real work requires a system of condensation, and when the body is older this will probably become apparent and be remedied.

Mr. E. M. Allen of Harford, read a paper on State Taxation, showing the inequality and injustice of the present system, and the points especially burdensome on the Farmers, and offered a resolution, which led to a long discussion.

Mr. Hollowell, of Montgomery County, offered a resolution upon the Township System, and Mr. Ezra Whitman was requested to read a paper upon this subject which he had prepared; but the hour of adjournment had arrived and the reading was postponed until the next morning.

On the morning of the 15th the Convention assembled promptly at 10 o'clock and Mr. Whitman read his paper on the Township System, and Mr. Hollowell's resolution was unanimously adopted. We give this paper in another part of the present number of the "Maryland Farmer," see page 33.

A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Dr. De Courcy, of Queen Anne's, offered a resolution favoring the bill creating the department of agriculture and labor, which has passed the House of Representatives. It sets forth that France and Belgium, where agriculture is thus recognized as needing and demanding a

voice in the government, are most advanced in their farming interests.

Henry O. Devries of Howard, favored the resolution, as did Mr. Dennis.

Ex-Gov. Hamilton wanted his vote recorded against the measure. He saw no reason for it. He saw no reason why the Farmers should ask to have a man in the cabinet. They had six there now. If in Congress he would vote against it, but if there was any necessity for such an office he would make it more comprehensive and include all branches of labor, mechanics and manufactures. It was only a question whether the President should have another counselor. He had far too many now.

THE TARIFF.

Wm. Collins, Jr., of Talbot, offered a resolution, which was laid over till next convention, declaring that the tariff should be revised and adjusted, and only enough duty collected to meet the running expenses of the government and pay the interest on the national debt, which will insure all the protection needed in this country; also in favor of taxing the luxuries and exempting the necessities.

We cannot close this report of the Convention without once again mentioning what we have repeatedly had occasion to record in the MARYLAND FARMER, our conviction that this strict confinement of all participation in the proceedings of the convention to a certain class of elected delegates, in a measure interferes with the accomplishment of the real objects of such a convention. There should be a perfect freedom for all interested in the Farmers' great work to speak and act; and the constitution of the convention should enable any Farmer present to contribute his best experience to the body while in session. We, also, are convinced more than ever, that instead of laying out work enough to last a Legislature 90 days through 77 Standing committee

men, it would be vastly better to have three or four, or half a dozen prominent subjects of discussion, announced in the call for the convention and canvassed thoroughly. We find a wide spread interest is felt in such discussions reported from the Deer Creek Farmers meetings or those of the Sandy Spring Farmers, and others. What a vast amount of good could be accomplished by the State Farmers' Convention, conducted on a similar principle, where the best minds of the entire State are brought together and practical experiences could be exchanged. A happy day will yet come for the agricultural interests of Maryland.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

On New Years Eve. Dec. 31, 1886, we reached the 50th anniversary of our Marriage, and celebrated the occasion with a gathering of our friends. Our lives and health have not been preserved thus long without our feeling under profound obligations to our Heavenly Father for his kind protection and care. We are pleased to be able to say that the occasion was one of the happiest events of our lives. In addition to the many friends with us at that time, we received a large number of congratulatory letters, the kind words of which renewed our youthful faith in the blessed friendships, belonging to human hearts. Many beautiful and precious presents were also bestowed upon us, and our hearts have overflowed with gratitude to all our friends present and absent who have bestowed upon us such generous congratulations.

Only once in a long life comes this 50th anniversary, and we are sure our readers will indulge us in placing on record an extract from the press, referring to this golding wedding. The Baltimore Evening News gives the following account of our celebration:

"The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Whitman was celebrated on the evening of December 31th at their residence, 149 Madison Avenue extended, At an early hour and for some days previous to that evening beautiful golden presents came to them from various parts of the country, some traveling a goodly distance to make glad the hearts of the recipients. Letters also from almost every State of the Union poured in upon them with pleasant congratulations. All the presents were beautiful, many of them of large value. Among them, greatly to be prized during all their lives, was a beautiful album, richly bound in velvet, containing father, mother, six children, with their husbands and wives and twelve grand-children. There were seven silver ladles, with gold linings, and each in its superb velvet case. A beautiful gold-handled silk umbrella, manufactured in Baltimore, was a pleasant and unique offering. Several new style parlor ornaments in golden bronze were attractive to look upon. A large double metal-framed highly polished desk ink-stand for the editorial table of the *Maryland Farmer*. In addition were many precious gifts, such as gold pens, pencils, studs, eye glass chain, silver card basket, gold souvenirs, made from gold direct from the California mines, several pieces of gold coin, and a large number of beautiful bouquets, baskets of flowers, etc. One of the best gifts was a large-sized satin, hand painted sachet, in richness of workmanship and perfume fit for a royal boudoir.

DECORATIONS.

The entire dwelling was decorated with exceptional taste under the direction of Mr. Black, the florist, who has the reputation of standing No. 1 in this department. The marble mantle in the parlor was literally covered with rosebuds and cut flowers, while a large number of potted plants of rare beauty formed in the bay-window a sylvan grotto, in front

of which hung the heavy lace curtains with the very appropriate and significant dates "1836—1886." Here Mr. and Mrs. Whitman received their guests. Potted plants were also ornamenting the hall and flowers and festoons of green were to be met with on all hands, the mirrors, curtains, chandaliers, &c., were wreathed in smilax, and the whole was a feast for the eyes of those who loved the beautiful.

THE SUPPER.

About 10 o'clock the dining-room doors were thrown open and the company were invited to the supper. The table stood, a "thing of beauty," in the centre of the spacious dining-room. The centre piece was a pyramid of fruits, standing under the chandelier and aspiring well up towards its pendant lights; oranges, grapes and flowers vied with each other in making it beautiful. Mountains of cakes, marangues, ice cream in various shapes and styles adorned the table. The substantials also held their own in turkeys, oysters, etc. From forty to fifty occupied the dining-room at the same time, while the supper was going on, and always during the evening the crowd of friends was congratulating the bride and groom in the parlor. Before the old year expired it was suggested by members of the guests that the couple whose fiftieth anniversary they were celebrating should be again married, and the Rev. H. R. Walworth, who was present, was called upon for the ceremony. Straightway all the children and grandchildren were brought forward, on the right and left of the bride and groom, and a most interesting ceremony of an informal character was listened to with smiling approbation by the large company. Soon after the striking of New Year bells, with many "Happy New Year" greetings to bride and groom, the gathering dispersed."

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE VANSVILLE FARMERS' CLUB.

AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION ON CLOVER.

The regular monthly meeting of the Vansville Farmers' Club was held on Saturday night last at "Pine Grove," the residence of Mr. Fielder M. Magruder, near Beltsville.

Mr. Magruder read the following essay on clover.

CLOVER.

The more thought I have given it, the less competent I feel to write an essay on a subject of such vast importance to the farmer. I shall not pretend to treat it in a scientific manner, and the few thoughts I shall offer are from what I have learned by practical knowledge and observation. There are at least sixty varieties of clover, but the common early red and sapling are the only kinds we, as farmers, are much interested in. The former matures early, which makes it better in a great many cases to turn under as a green crop; the latter is later, which makes it preferable to sow with some kind of grass crop.—As to culture; some prefer to sow the latter part of winter on a light snow or frozen ground, but as far as my experience goes, I think it decidedly better as soon as land gets in order to work. Harrow over your winter grain, sow your clover seed; and roll; or if you have a clear piece of land you do not wish to sow to grain, harrow in the same way and sow your seed. If you sow with oats, make it a point to get your oats in as early as possible; the earlier you get your seed in the ground the better prospect for a stand of clover.

As to time; sow as early in the season as you can work your land, the earlier the better.

Amount of seed:—If sown by itself not less than one peck to the acre, and some

of our best and most successful farmers recommend a half bushel.

Value of hay:—I am sure clover cut at the right time and properly cured, stands at the head of all the grasses for feed. I contend there is more nutrition, and stock eat it with more relish. For our dairy and for work horses it goes far ahead of any other kind of hay. Some contend that it is dangerous to feed to horses as it will give them the heaves. I have had it cured so badly that I was afraid to feed it to my horses dry, so I cut it and fed it as chaff which makes one of the best and a most substantial feed for a work horse, and the manure made from it is worth double the value of that made from straw.

As to pasture:—It is valuable; dairy stock will give more and richer milk than on any other kind of grass, and work horses will keep fat on it without any other feed.

As to seed;—I have had no experience; hope some member of the Club will enlighten us.

Green crop for turning under.—We truckers, who cannot get a full supply of manure except at an exorbitant price would not know what to do without clover. As a green manure I can confidently assert from experience that it is the very next thing to barn-yard manure, and in some cases it is equally as beneficial for a crop. Working my land as I do, I am sure, deprived of clover, I should make a complete failure. One great advantage of clover is, that if we are compelled to graze, or cut it for hay, the roots come in as a great help to the land. Lime is the best clover fertilizer.

After Mr. Magruder finished reading his essay, a lengthy discussion followed on the subject "Clover" which we would be pleased to give to our readers, but are compelled to omit it on account of space.

THE HATCH BILL ONCE MORE.

From the beginning the MARYLAND FARMER has advocated the passage of this bill, considering it of more importance to the agricultural interests of the country than any bill ever before introduced into Congress. We shall be pleased to see it become a law of the land. We cannot see how any intelligent and unselfish man, interested in agriculture can be opposed to the bill. We can understand why it is that some Experiment Stations are opposed to it, on the ground that they wish it so changed that they may be empowered to receive the \$15,000 annually given to the Agricultural Colleges for experimental purposes. Then there are a few men in the State of Maryland, we are sorry to say, who have cultivated such a bad feeling towards our Agr'l College, when it was struggling for a bare existence, that even now when its increasing prosperity is giving promise of the best results, they would prefer to see the Hatch bill defeated rather than have it come to the College to strengthen its power of benefitting the Farming Community by the Experimental Station to be established there. If this class, so greatly to be pitied, and now confined to a few isolated localities, could use the \$15,000 to injure the College, it would gratify their spitefulness, and such would gladly have the Hatch Bill made to conform to their wishes. But this class are now fast dying out; the great body of intelligent, substantial Farmers of Maryland are fast realizing that the State Agricultural College, is in the future to be their strong right arm in the battle for prosperity and successful life.

IN nothing are the ideas of the people changing more than in regard to the breeding and treatment of horses. If you wish to keep in the front ranks you must be up and doing.

PATENT LAWS.

In our January number we had an article on the defects of the Patent Laws, and endeavored to show the suffering often produced upon innocent purchasers of patent articles, by the practice of "sharps," who threaten to prosecute the Farmers in the U. S. Courts; but allow the manufacturers of the articles to keep on manufacturing unmolested. It is easy to obtain money on *unjust* claims from the Farmers; but it is not easy to obtain it from the manufacturers. We have received a long communication from a Patent agent, which does not meet at all the above points, as brought out in our previous article. We believe the law itself should be so changed that the manufacturer should be the one prosecuted, and not the purchaser, who has never been apprised in any manner of the patent infringed. We believe the law as it now exists, encourages dishonest sharpers to visit Farmers, and by threats of prosecution, extort from them money. The law itself is a defective one, because it encourages "sharpers" to allow the manufacturers full liberty, while they prey upon individual uses of the article patented. If the article received from our correspondent met the points in our January number in any reasonable manner, we should not hesitate to publish it; but the general principles of the rights of patentees no one at present disputes. It is only the defect of patent laws with which we have to do.

The *Maryland Farmer* for the present month is of more than usual interest, both as regards its artistic and literary characteristics. It is splendidly printed on excellent paper and treats upon a great variety of subjects, agricultural, horticultural, live-stock, apiary, poultry, household and other interesting matters. Published by E. Whitman, Baltimore. \$1 a year.—*Emmitsburg Chronicle*.

The American Agricultural and Dairy Association.

The Eighth National Agricultural Convention and Annual Meeting of the American Agricultural and Dairy Association, will be held at the Grand Central Hotel, Broadway, near third Street, New York, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 8th and 9th.

All interested in Agriculture and Dairying and kindred pursuits are cordially invited to be present and participate in the proceedings.

F. K. MORELAND, Secretary.

THE Agricultural Society.—The regular annual meeting of the Frederick County Agricultural Society took place at the Court House, and was numerously attended.—The meeting was called to order by President Gambrill. The following named gentlemen were elected officers for the coming year: John T. Best, president; George W. Miller, vice-president; George W. Cramer, secretary; Harry C. Keefer, corresponding secretary; Z. James Gittenberger, treasurer; Charles N. Hargett, chief marshal. The committee appointed at a recent meeting to prepare a new constitution for the Society, reported the same, which was read, and on motion it was decided to defer action on it until the meeting in April. There will be no changes of importance enacted in the constitution beyond the electing of the Board of Managers, instead of appointing them, as is now the rule.

The MARYLAND FARMER of November is on our table. It is superfluous for us to say anything in commendation of this book as it is too well known. Published by Ezra Whitman, Baltimore, Md., at \$1 per annum in advance, with premium.—*Fredrick Examiner*.

To the Editor of Maryland Farmer.

ECONOMICAL FEEDING OF CATTLE.

Having had considerable experience in feeding cattle and young stock, I thought a few hints through the *FARMER* may be of some service to some of its numerous readers.

Myself and a young man have fed and taken care of some 46 head of cattle so far this winter, besides, hauling out and spreading the manure made by them, and as fast as made, upon the meadows—and doing some other work besides. But to do this, we have a handy barn, and the water and bedding are not far away.

The grown cattle are all in stalls and the young stock and calves are put in pens, two or three together.

Early in the summer, generally 5 a. m., we feed the mixed feed, (which was mixed the night before). This mixed feed consists of equal parts of mixed clover, hay and orchard grass, oat straw, and fodder corn, and about 4 quarts of millfeed and corn and cob meal for each grown animal,—one-half bushel of this mixture is given to each animal—and a smaller portion to the calves. After the sun is up, say 8 a. m., they are let out to water—(the water is pumped right from the well and is warm and pleasant to drink,) the stables are cleaned, then bedded with an abundance of clean, bright straw, the stables well aired, a handful of mill feed is placed in each animals' trough, they are then called and each animal will go into his proper place without any trouble or annoyance. Hay is then fed as much as they care for, and then they are left until the afternoons' feeding, which is the same.

I find this is the cheapest and the easiest way of wintering cattle. My barn is a bank barn, and so all the hay and feed is thrown down into the feeding rooms,

which makes it very easy work especially in rough weather—and the stables are warm with the animal heat; much warmer than many houses I have been in this winter.

Another thing is that this mixed hay, consisting of orchard grass and clover is a capital feed—the cattle are very fond of it—it is nice and soft and green, and they eat it with a relish. Now and then I change by giving fodder corn, grown thinly, about one bushel sown in drills, three feet apart, cut with a reaper (when in tassel) and set up and cured in the field and hauled in as wanted. This is a grand feed, and easily and economically raised and cured—and I fail to see where ensilage has any advantage over it, when it will take 5 tons of it to make one ton of this nice corn fodder. I can pump all the water I want at my leisure in winter and don't care to having it packed away in the busy fall months as ensilage, and that at a pretty steep price.

Another good feed and cheap, is oats cut in the mill and made into hay, put in the barn, and well salted; it is a feed liked by all. Bright wheat straw is also much relished by them; and what they do not eat is used as litter.

The one great and important thing in feeding cattle for profit is regularity and feeding just enough, and no more than that. If too much hay is fed it is wasted which is a further loss. I think by letting them out they are kept much healthier, digest better and put on flesh much faster.

Many are trying new plans of feeding and often times at great cost to themselves, but I believe, and know as far as my experience reaches, that the old way well and faithfully carried out under the eye of the painstaking farmer is the best way yet.

F. S

Plains Farm.

OUR LETTER BOX.

The following are a few of the many letters received by us daily, and we return to each one our hearty thanks.

WOODLAND, D. C., Dec. 30, '86.

E. Whitman, Esq.

DEAR SIR:—Enclosed herewith please find my subscription for the "Maryland Farmer."

The "Maryland Farmer" maintains its high character—and had I the time and activity once possessed, I would endeavor to increase its circulation in this locality.

Truly Yours, H. P.

PLAINS, December 25, 1886.

Ezra Whitman, Editor "Md. Farmer,"

MY DEAR SIR:—This is the day of days, the true christain jubilee. It puts me in my 80th year, and in the last *quarter stretch*, I have several good friends and *Farmers* with me to-day, at this moment appetizing with "good common" for ham and turkey, having fully discussed the merits of the "Md. Farmer" with a unanimous decission, that no man who owns a plow, who supervises his sheep-fold, farm yard, or pig sty, should be without it. I send my drop of oil to lubricate its press, *long mau it roll* after you and I shall have slept. I send all the kind greetings of this happy season, to one who must be proud in the conscientious performance of the duties of a well spent life. Most truly your friend,

JNO. H. SOTHORON.

LITTLE VALLEY, N. Y., Dec. 31, '86.

Ezra Whitman:—DEAR SIR:

The "Maryland Farmer" grows better and better every year. I am taking three Agricultural papers besides, and the Maryland Farmer suits me best of all, it is a No. 1 farming Magazine, and is well worth the money you ask for it. Enclosed

please find my subscription and one new subscriber.

Yours truly,
O. S. S.

January 3, 1887.

Ezra Whitman, Editor "Md. Farmer."

DEAR SIR:—Enclosed find subscription to "Maryland Farmer." It has been a welcome visitor in the house since the first year, I believe, of its publication.

Yours respectfully,
M. T. DENT.

POULTRY SHOW.—The Massachusetts poultry show, held last month in Boston was the largest and finest yet held in America. New England is the home of the Light Bramas, and the display of this variety was wonderful. In quality and numbers it has never before been approached. There were over 2,000 birds on exhibition, and about 1,000 pigeons. There were also many incubators hatching out chickens by the hundred.

THE FARMERS.—The Farmers' Congress, which was in session at Washington, D. C., last month, appointed committees to urge a change in the charters of national banks so as to allow loans on the real estate, also to urge the passage of the Hatch Experiment Station Bill now before Congress. The Congress adjourned to meet in Chicago next November. The following committee to Congress and the State Department was appointed: L. W. Corbin, chairman, of Virginia; J. C. Walsh, of Maryland; J. O. Saxton, of Pennsylvania; J. W. Miles, of Iowa; and D. M. Russell, of Mississippi.

Sandy Spring Convention.

The proceedings of this convention are received, but too late to appear in this number of the MARYLAND FARMER. Our readers may look for them in our March issue.

DOMESTIC RECIPES.

SILVER CAKE.—One-half cup of butter, two cups powdered sugar, three cups of flour, one cup of cold water, whites of four eggs, one scant teaspoonful of soda and two heaping ones of cream of tartar or three rounded teaspoonfuls of baking powder.

MINCE PIES WITHOUT MEAT.—Take of currants, apples chopped fine, moist sugar, and suet, well chopped, a pound of each; a quarter of a pound of raisins, stoned and chopped small, the juice of four Seville oranges, the juice of two lemons, the rind of one shred fine, nutmeg and mace to suit the palate and a glass of brandy; mix all together, put it in a pan and keep it closely tied up.

SALMON SOUFFLE.—One pound of Eureka Star salmon worked to a paste; soak two ounces of bread crumbs in cold milk and mix it with the salmon; beat up the whites and yolks (separately) of three eggs; add the beaten yolks to the salmon; season with salt, pepper, a little nutmeg and the grated peel of one lemon; whip up the whites to a stiff froth, pour it on top of the dish and place the dish in a moderate oven. When the top is slightly browned and puffed well upward it is ready to serve.

BREAKFAST BISCUITS.—One quart flour, one-half teaspoonful salt, two teaspoonfuls Horsford's baking powder, one-half ounce butter; mix together; add milk enough to make a soft dough; roll out quickly, handling as little as possible, and bake in a quick oven.

CORN BREAD.—One large coffee cupful of dry, finely bolted corn meal, one tablespoonful white sugar, a little salt, two teaspoonfuls Horsford's baking powder;

sift thoroughly, then mix with one and one-half large coffee cupfuls of cold sweet milk or cold water, and add two well beaten eggs; bake immediately in a shallow pan or for gem cakes in a gem pan.

Books, Catalogues, Reports, &c.

Vick's Illustrated Monthly for January. In illustration and print, it is everything the most critical could desire. It begins the 10th volume \$1.25 per year, James Vick, Rochester, New York.

Arthur's Home Magazine for January, commences the 35 successive year of its publication. Its form is the best possible for handy use, and its contents are first-class for the family and for the travelling public. Its tone is always unexceptionable, and its standard of morals high. \$2.00 per year. T. S. Arthur & Sons, Phila., Pa.

Oranges, by Jos. H. Wright, of New York, where they come from, and their peculiarities of quality, and the law of supply and demand.

Fungus Diseases of the Grape Vine. Department of Agriculture, is one of the best issues from that department.

Annual Report of the Comptroller of Treasury Department, State of Maryland for the year ending September 30, 1886.

Bulletins 5 & 6, Louisiana Sugar Ex. Station, on *Sorghum*, and on *Corn*, respectively. Also the *Corn Report* for the month of December '86. Thompson J. Bird, Commissioner.

Proceedings of the National Cattle Convention, held in Nov. 1886, in Chicago.

The *Daily Bee*, of Sacramento, Cal., giving an elaborate account of the great Citreus Fair held in that City. Dec. 13-19. It is worthy a perusal by all who are interested in the Orange Culture of our country or who love this golden fruit: and who do not?

Vick's Floral Guide for 1887.—Leading the list of Catalogues from Seedsmen and Florists comes this beautiful work from James Vick, Rochester, N. Y. Seldom do we find any work more attractive, and from a long experience we have learned that we can depend upon his seed packages to produce, as he describes, the beautiful flowers for the garden and the house adornment. The hat-full of Pansies are exceedingly fine, and 10 cts. will bring the guide to those who would like to examine it.

Young & Elliott's seed Catalogue for 1887, 54 and 56 Dey St., N. Y. Vegetables and Flowers.

Jas. M. Thorburn & Co's Annual Descriptive Catalogue, 1887. Vegetable, Flower, Farm and Nursery.

James J. H. Gregory's Annual Illustrated Retail Catalogue, 1887. Vegetable, Flower and Grain.

Z. De Forest Ely & Co's Garden Almanac and Seed Annual. Philadelphia. Pa.

Photo-Engraving Company, New York, has sent us a beautiful specimen book illustrating their work.

Catalogues of Isaac F. Tillinghast, La Plume, Pa. Flower Seeds, Vegetable Seeds and Wholesale List.

Catalogue of Mansfield, Milton & Co., Youngstown, Ohio. Flowers, Seeds, Etc.

Catalogue of W. W. Rawson & Co., Boston, Successors to B. K. Bliss & Sons of New York, Mass. Vegetable and Flower Seeds, and Garden Implements—a very fine Catalogue.

Schedule of Prizes offered by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for 1887. Robert Manning, Secretary.

CATALOGUE of Peter Henderson & Co. of New York is among the elegant productions of art. It gives a full list, also, of everything desired in farm and garden vegetables, flowers, field seeds and implements of every description. It is well worth the 10 cents they ask to cover postage.

Dingee & Conard Co's New Guide to Rose Culture—specialties, Roses, Hardy Plants and finest Flower Seeds. Their Catalogue is a beautiful specimen of work. Address them at West Grove, Chester Co., Pa.

R. & J. Farquhar & Co's Catalogue of Vegetable and Flower Seeds, 19 S. Market Street, Boston, Mass.

Catalogue of Iowa Seed Co. Des Moines, Iowa.

Joseph Harris Seed Co., Moreton Farm, Rochester, N. Y. Vegetable and Flower Seeds. The reputation of Joseph Harris is a guarantee to the purchaser.

Burpee's Farm Annual for 1887, advertised in this issue, is a very handsome book of 128 pages, elegantly bound in an artistic cover. It contains hundreds of illustrations, with colored plates of new vegetable and flowers, which our subscribers can obtain gratis upon application to W. Atlee Burpee & Co., of Philadelphia, Pa.

Interstate Agricultural Convention, at Lake Charles, La.

Governor McEnery, of Louisiana has issued a call for an Interstate Convention in the interest of stock-raising, dairying, fruit-growing and general agriculture, to be held at Lake Charles, La., on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of February.

The Convention will be formally opened on Wednesday morning, after the close of Mardi Gras.

The Governor of Louisiana having requested that delegates be appointed by the executives of the different States, the Hon. Henry Lloyd, Gov. of Maryland has appointed the Editor delegate to the above Convention. He expects to be present on that occasion, and will improve the opportunity for a tour through the Orange Groves of Florida. He hopes to make his trip profitable to the readers of the MARYLAND FARMER, as well as pleasant to himself.

THE Bagdad Lumber, Blind, and Sash Company of Florida, as described by the Times-Union, is a model institution. None of its stock is for sale and no money can buy admission to the company. Its stockholders are its workmen, its clerks, its managers. Each is qualified by entering some one of its branches of the business at the bottom and working for regular wages until, after mastering the details, he is promoted, and, when his services are found valuable, he is allotted a certain number of shares. These shares are inalienable, and at the death of the holder they are sold to the highest bidder among the other stockholders for the benefit of the widow and children. There are no capitalists and no strikes. The company now owns 1,000,000 acres of finely timbered land, employs many men, and ships its lumber in its own schooners.—*New Age*.

SHAMEFUL ABUSE

HEAPED UPON A NOTED ENGLISHMAN
FOR HIS OPEN HONESTY.

WM. ED. ROBSON, M. D., L. R. C. S. I.,
M. K. Q. C. P. I., late of the Royal Navy,
of England, has got into professional
trouble for writing the following open
letter to the editor of the London *Family*
Doctor:

"I believe it to be the duty of every
physician to make known any means or
remedy whereby sickness can be prevented,
and it is for this purpose I write to give
my experience here and abroad. I ask the
publication of the statement that people
may be warned before it is too late, to say
to them that there is at hand a means by
which they may be restored to perfect
health. It is well known to the medical
world, and indeed, to the laity, that a
certain disease is making a terrible havoc;
that next to consumption it is the most
fatal, and that when fully developed there
is nothing to be done for the sufferer."

"Physicians and scientists have long
been trying to throw light upon the cause,
and if possible, find in nature a medicine
for this fatal malady. They have shown,
absolutely, that the blood-purifying organs
of vital importance, are the kidneys, and
that when they once fail, the poison which
they should take out of the blood is carried
by the blood into every part of the body,
developing disease."

"In my hospital practice in England,
India and South America, and also while
a surgeon in the Royal Navy of Great
Britain, I gave a great deal of attention to
the study of diseases of the kidneys and
urinary organs, and found that not only
was the cure of chronic Bright's Disease
hopeless, but that kidney disease was re-
markably prevalent; much more so than
generally known, and was the cause of the
majority of cases of sickness, and further,
that the medical profession has no remedy
which exerts any absolute control over
these organs in disease."

"Some time ago when I had a case
which resisted all regular treatment,—
which is very limited,—complicated with
the passing of stones from the kidneys,
much against my will I permitted my
patient to use Warner's safe cure, of which

I had heard marvelous results. In his
case the result was simply marvelous, as
the attack was a severe one, and develop-
ment very grave, for an analysis showed
per cent. of albumen and granular tube
casts."

"The action of the medicine was singu-
lar and incomprehensible to me. I had
never seen anything like it. The patient
recovered promptly, and is to-day a well
and healthy man. This stimulated my
inquiry into the merits of the remedy, and
after analysis I found it to be of purely
vegetable character, harmless to take under
all circumstances."

"Casting aside all professional prejudice
I gave it a thorough trial, as I was anxious
that my patients should be restored to
health, no matter by what medicine. I
prescribed it in a great variety of cases,
Acute, Chronic, Bright's Disease, Con-
gestion of the Kidneys, Catarrh of the
Bladder, and in every instance did it
speedily effect a cure."

"For this reason I deem it my duty to
give to the world this statement regarding
the value of Warner's safe cure. I make
this statement on facts I am prepared to
produce and substantiate. I appeal to
physicians of large practice who know
how common and deceptive diseases of the
kidneys are, to lay aside professional prej-
udice, give their patients Warner's safe
cure, restore them to perfect health, earn
their gratitude, and thus be true physi-
cians."

"I am satisfied that more than one-half
of the deaths which occur in England are
caused, primarily, by impaired action of
the kidneys, and the consequent retention
in the blood of the poisonous uric and
kidney acid. Warner's safe cure causes
the kidneys to expel this poison, checks
the escape of albumen, relieves the inflam-
mation and prevents illness from impaired
and impoverished blood. Having had
more than seventeen years' experience in
my profession, I conscientiously and em-
phatically state that I have been able to
give more relief and effect more cures by
the use of Warner's safe cure than by all
the other medicines ascertainable to the
profession, the majority of which, I am
sorry to say, are very uncertain in their
action."

"Isn't that a straightforward, manly letter?"

"Indeed it is?"

"Well, but do you know the author has been dreadfully persecuted for writing it?"

"How so? What has he done to merit it?"

"Done? He has spoken the truth 'out of school' and his fellow physicians, who want the public to think they have a monopoly in curing diseases, are terribly angry with him for admitting professional inability to reach certain disorders.

"That letter created a wonderful sensation among the titled classes and the public. This jarred the doctors terribly. The College of Surgeons and Queen's College, from which institution he was graduated, asked for an explanation of his unprofessional conduct, and notified him that unless he made a retraction they would discipline him.

"The doctor replied that he allowed his patients to make use of Warner's safe cure only after all the regular methods *had failed*, and when he was satisfied that there was no possible hope for them. Upon their recovery, after having used Warner's safe cure, he was so much surprised that he wrote the above letter to the *Family Doctor*. He regretted that the faculties found fault with his action in the matter, but he could not conscientiously retract the facts as written to the *Family Doctor*."

"The faculties of both colleges replied that unless he retracted they should cut him off, which would naturally *debar him from again practicing his profession*, and also prevent his securing another appointment in the Royal Navy!"

The illustrious doctor's dilemma is certainly an unpleasant one, emphasizing, as it does, both his own honesty, and the contemptible prejudice and bigotry of English medical men. The masses, however, having no sympathy with their nonsense, keep on using the remedy he so highly recommends and get well, while the rich and able depend upon the prejudiced doctors and die!

To Farmers.

Neat be your farms; 'tis long confessed
The neatest farmer is the best;
Each bog and marsh industrious drain,
Nor let vile balks deform the plain,
Nor bushes on your headland grow,
For briars a sloven's culture show.
Neat be your barns, your houses sweet;
Your paths be clean, your door yards neat;
No moss the sheltering roof enshroud,
Nor wooden panes the windows cloud;
No sink drains should above ground flow;
Nor weeds with rankling poison grow;
But flowers expand, and fruit trees bloom,
And fragrant shrubs exhale perfume.
Neatly enclose your garden round;
Smooth, enrich and clear the ground;
For if to taste and profit you incline,
Beauty and use you should always combine.

—*New England Farmer.*

Modern Methods of Clearing Land.

WONDERFUL RESULTS OF THE JUSTLY CELEBRATED JUDSON POWDER.

The beauty of this system of clearing land is the most complete removal of the roots, which are the bane of the farmer's life in tilling the land. The Judson Powder utterly annihilates stumps, rendering them into fragments, roots and all, so that they can be readily removed. Boulders and other obstructions are attended to with equal care.

A strong point in regard to this plan of work is the money and time saved, work which by the old process would require weeks of labor and heavy expense, can by the use of this powder be accomplished in days.

We think every farmer or contractor will do well to investigate the merits of this famous explosive. Mr. Broderick who is the general southern manager with office at 15 P. O. Avenue, will gladly afford those interested all information.

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THE

"MARYLAND FARMER"

A STANDARD MAGAZINE,

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Live Stock and Rural Economy,

Oldest Agricultural Journal in Maryland and
for ten years the only one.

EZRA WHITMAN, Editor and Proprietor.

141 WEST PRATT STREET,

BALTIMORE, MD.

BALTIMORE, FEBRUARY 1st, 1887.

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The Maryland Farmer Purchasing Agency.

THIS Agency has been some years in operation, increasing in usefulness each year, until it has become of great convenience and importance to the Farmer. In the hurry of the work upon the Farm, often some article is required, and if the Farmer has to leave his work and visit Baltimore to purchase the article wanted, it would be great inconvenience and expense to him, while all that is now necessary, is, to enclose check, draft or Post office order to the "Maryland Farmer Agency," and the article wanted will be purchased and shipped at probably a less price and of better quality than the Farmer would have obtained had he come to Baltimore himself. Therefore the Agency has become of great value to Farmers throughout the South.

The Agency will guarantee that any article purchased will be at the lowest market price in Baltimore, and without charge for commission.

See advertisement on page 64.

THE
MARYLAND FARMER
PURCHASING AGENCY
141 WEST PRATT STREET,
BALTIMORE, MD.

Patrons of this Agency will have the experience of one who has been more than forty years engaged in this business, and well acquainted with every article that is required for the farm and plantation. We will furnish

FARM IMPLEMENTS

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

Seeds, Fertilizers, High-Bred, Fashionable, and Herd Book Stock, Poultry, &c., and any article wanted upon the Farm, in large or small quantities, at the LOWEST CASH PRICES.

TERMS:—In order to supply our customers at the lowest prices, it will be necessary for the cash, P. O. order or draft, to accompany the order.

EZRA WHITMAN,
 BALTIMORE, MD.

SPECIAL OFFER.

The MARYLAND FARMER will be furnished the entire year of 1887 for one dollar, postage prepaid. Those wishing to avail themselves of this offer will enclose to us one dollar in currency, check, P. O. Order or stamps, and it will have our prompt attention. The following blank may be cut out and filled up which will save the trouble of writing:

E. WHITMAN, Editor of Maryland Farmer.

Dear Sir:—Enclosed please find one dollar in.....for which please send me the "Maryland Farmer," as per the above proposition.

Name,.....

Post Office,.....

County,.....

State,.....